

# *Documents on Diplomacy: The Source*

## *United States Recognizes New Russian Government* *Secretary Lansing to Ambassador Francis, Washington, D.C., March 20, 1917*

Please call on Milioukov, Foreign Minister of the new Government, and ask for an appointment with the head of the Provisional Government to acquaint him with the desire of this Government to open relations with the new Government of Russia. At your interview state that the Government of the United States recognizes the new Government of Russia, and that you, as Ambassador of the United States, will be pleased to continue intercourse with Russia through the medium of the new Government.

LANSING

File No. 861.00/330

AMBASSADOR FRANCIS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
[TELEGRAM— EXTRACT]  
AMERICAN EMBASSY, PETROGRAD, MARCH 22, 1917

Accompanied by Embassy suite was received by Council of Ministers, 4.30 p.m. After introduction by Milioukov [I] spoke as follows:

Mr. President of the Council of Ministers:

I have the honor as American Ambassador and as representative of the Government of the United States accredited to Russia, to state in accordance with my instructions that the

Government of the United States recognizes the new Government of Russia and that I, as Ambassador of the United States, will be pleased to continue intercourse with Russia through the medium of the new Government. May the cordial relations existing between the two countries continue to obtain and may they prove mutually satisfactory and beneficial.

Every Minister present except Minister of War who out of city. Milioukov replied expressing great gratification and saying it was first formal recognition of new Government; was highly appreciated and would have great moral effect, *et cetera*. Have since heard that British and French Ambassadors formally recognized Government in note sent to Foreign Office 3 p.m., but I had formerly recognized Government in interview with Milioukov at 11 a.m.

FRANCIS

File No. 861.00/365

### *Source*

United States Department of State, *United States Department of State/ Papers relating to the foreign relations of the United States, 1917. with the address of the President to Congress, December 4, 1917, pp. 1208 & 1211]*

<http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/FRUS/FRUS-idx?type=turn&entity=FRUS.FRUS1917.p1373&id=FRUS.FRUS1917&isize=XL&q1=March%2020,%201917>